

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3462

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 2 6 9

ABIDJAN ALSO FOR REDSO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN XJ

SUBJ: ENTENTE MEETING, LOME, 28-30 JAN 1978

1. ENTENTE SECRETARIAT STAFF HAVE ARRIVED IN LOME TO PREPARE DOSSIERS FOR A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE 28-29 JANUARY. THE SUMMIT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON 30 JANUARY. SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS WILL INCLUDE TOGOLESE PRESIDENT GNASSINGBE EYADEMA, WHO IS PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF THE ENTENTE; IVORIAN PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY; NIGERIESE PRESIDENT SEYNI KOUNTCHE; UPPER VOLTAN PRESIDENT LAMIZANA; AND COLONEL BARTELEMY OHOUENS, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY & HANDICRAFT, WILL REPRESENT BENIN.

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THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE, ACCORDING TO AN ENTENTE SECRETARIAT SOURCE, IN A "GOOD" ATMOSPHERE. THE RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING OF FRANCE TO IVORY COAST WILL PROBABLY DOMINATE THE INFORMAL TETE-A-TETE SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS.

2. THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A. REPORT ON ON-GOING ACTIVITIES.

A. TOURISM.

(FINANCING HOTELS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING IN THE HINTERLAND. FACILITIES OF 25-50 ROOMS ARE BEING DEVELOPED NEAR GAME PARKS. ONE IS TO BE LOCATED IN TOGO AT FAZAO.)

B. ENTENTE FUND LOTTERY.

(THIS IS ESSENTIALLY A PUBLIC RELATIONS DEVICE IN WHICH PEOPLE IN THE FIVE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE.)

C. GEOLOGY AND MINES.

(THIS IS AN INTERSTATE COMMITTEE WHICH IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP COMMON APPROACHES TO THE EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES; HOWEVER, IT IS FAIRLY INACTIVE)

D. LAND TRANSPORT.

(THIS IS AN ACTIVE ENTENTE ORGANIZATION IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ARE DEVELOPED TO ALLOW TRUCKERS TO OPERATE ACROSS FRONTIERS AND TO DEVELOP COMMON APPROACHES TO CUSTOMS FORMALITIES, ROAD SAFETY, WEIGHT STANDARDS, AND THE TRAINING OF DRIVERS AND OWNERS.)

E. CERFER.

(IT IS PROPOSED TO HAVE THIS AID-FINANCED ROAD MAINTENANCE TRAINING FACILITY, WHICH IS LOCATED IN TOGO, RECOGNIZED BY TOGO AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN ORDER

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TO ELIMINATE TAX AND CUSTOMS PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN. THERE IS ALSO A PROPOSAL THAT CERFER STUDENTS BE GIVEN A CERTIFICATE WITH EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENCY.)

F. TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

(THE ENTENTE IS IN THE PROCESS OF DOING A REGIONAL STUDY FOR THE FIVE COUNTRIES PLUS MAURITANIA, MALI AND SENEGAL, OF EAST-WEST COMMUNICATIONS. THE STUDY IS BEING DONE IN COOPERATION WITH BOAD, CEAO AND ECOWAS. ECOWAS WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES AND THE ENTENTE ON THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES. THE CONCEPT IS TO DEVELOP COMPATIBLE STUDIES FOR THE REGION. THE FRENCH FIRM OF SOFRECOM IS DOING THE BASIC FRANCOPHONE STUDY.)

G. RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

(AID FINANCED ENTENTE FOOD AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION PROJECTS WILL BE REVIEWED. A CEREALS PRODUCTION SCHEME IN UPPER VOLTA AND NIGER ALSO COMES UNDER THIS HEADING. THE REVIEW WILL INDICATE THE DIRECTION THAT RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS GOING, THE STATUS OF PROJECTS, AND THE STATUS OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT. TOTAL FUNDS ARE 8 MILLIARD CFA OF WHICH 3.6 IS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, 1.8 FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, 1.6 FOR USAID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; THE BALANCE IS PROVIDED BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. FRANCE

HAS GIVEN \$1 MILLION IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.)

II. NEW ACTIVITIES.

A. VILLAGE WATER PROGRAM.

(A VILLAGE WATER PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CHIEF OF STATE FOR APPROVAL. PRELIMINARY STUDIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE. THE CONCEPT IS TO DEVELOP 1,000 WELLS IN FIVE YEARS IN EACH COUNTRY. PAUL KAYA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ENTENTE, WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO SEEK FINANCING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25 MILLION.)

B. REINFORCEMENT OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMUNITY.

(THIS ORGANIZATION, WHICH IS LOCATED AT OUAGADOUGOU, CONFIDENTIAL

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IS SEEKING TO ACHIEVE THE HARMONIZATION OF MEDICAL STANDARDS AND COMMON STANDARDS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF HERDS FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTHERN COASTAL REGIONS.)

C. CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER KAYA NEEDS A DEPUTY

(THE ISSUE OF FURTHER AFRICANIZATION OF THE ENTENTE FUND STAFF WILL ARISE UNDER THIS HEADING.)

D. INCREASE OF ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENTENTE FUND.

(A \$29 MILLION ENTENTE INVESTMENT GUARANTEE FUND IS LOCATED IN PARIS. OPERATING COSTS FOR THE SECRETARIAT ARE PAID OUT OF THE INTEREST OF THIS FUND. OPERATING COSTS IN 1977 WERE \$2 MILLION, BUT WITH INCREASED ACTIVITY LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WILL BE NEEDED.)

E. ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT PRO TEM.

(EYADEMA HAS BEEN PRESIDENT PRO TEM FOR 18 MONTHS, SINCE THE LAST MEETING.)

III. INFORMAL TALKS BY CHIEFS OF STATE.

(THE VENERABLE HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY EXERCISES HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON OTHER ENTENTE MEMBERS IN THESE TALKS. DOUBTLESS HE WILL REPORT ON HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DEVICE FOR EXCHANGING VIEWS ON REGIONAL POLICY

BECAUSE HOUPHOUET HAS A FILIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS COLLEAGUES, ALL OF WHOM CAME TO POWER OUT OF MILITARY BACKGROUNDS BY MILITARY COUP D'ETAT. PALMER

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